

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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R 081435Z APR 74
FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2382
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL TRIESTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, YO
SUBJECT: SLOVENIAN PARTY CONGRESS

REF: A. BELGRADE 1344; B. BELGRADE 1623

SUMMARY: LEAGUE OF COMMUNISTS OF SLOVENIA (LCS) HELD SEVENTH PARTY CONGRESS IN LJUBLJANA APRIL 3-5. AS ANTICIPATED (REF A), FRANC POPIT REELECTED AS PRESIDENT LCS CENTRAL COMMITTEE (CC) AND FRANC SETINC WILL CONTINUE AS SECRETARY OF PARTY SECRETARIAT (REDESIGNATED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF CC LCS). MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER LCS ORGANS, INCLUDING EXPANDED CC AND NEWLY ESTABLISHED 21-MAN PARTY PRESIDIUM, ALSO CHOSEN. CONGRESS SERVED AS FORUM FOR ATTACKS ON ITALY'S ZONE B POSITION AND ON "PROVOCATIVE" US-ITALIAN MANEUVERS IN NORTHERN ADRIATIC (REF B). TREATMENT OF SLOVENE MINORITIES IN ITALY AND AUSTRIA ALSO SCORED. END SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTORY SPEECHES BY POPIT AND SETINC, CALLING FOR DIRECT WORKER CONTROL OF PRODUCTION WHILE DENOUNCING "FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC ENEMIES" OF SELF-MANAGEMENT AND NONALIGNMENT, SET

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TONE FOR PARTY CONGRESS. POPIT NOTED WITH PRIDE THAT LCS

ADMITTED 6,500 NEW MEMBERS IN PAST YEAR, REPRESENTING ALMOST 10 PERCENT GAIN IN TOTAL MEMBERSHIP.

2. POPIT, AS PRESIDENT OF LCS CC, WILL ALSO SERVE "EX OFFICIO" AS MEMBER OF NEWLY ESTABLISHED 21-MEMBER LCS PRESIDIUM, WHOSE OTHER MEMBERS ELECTED FROM WITHIN CC LCS, WHICH WILL BECOME "POLITICAL EXECUTIVE ORGAN OF CC." CC MEMBERSHIP EXPANDED TO 70, ONLY 17 OF THEM HOLDOVERS FROM PREVIOUS 44-MEMBER CC. NEW CC RELATIVELY YOUTHFUL BODY IN YUGOSLAV POLITICAL CONTEXT (AVERAGE AGE 43) AND INCLUDES SOME 23 WORKERS. FIVE OF SEVEN MEMBERS OF NEW CC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WERE MEMBERS FORMER CC SECRETARIAT. POPIT WILL ALSO BE "EX OFFICIO" MEMBER OF SLOVENIA'S NINE-MAN PRESIDENCY (REF A).

3. CONGRESS ISSUED STATEMENTS UNDERSCORING POPIT'S INTRODUCTORY LINE: (A) ON US-ITALIAN "PROVOCATIVE" MANEUVERS AS PART OF ATTACK ON NONALIGNMENT IN GENERAL; AND (B) ON "POSITION OF SLOVENE NATIONAL COMMUNITIES IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES." LATTER STATEMENT CONTRASTED SITUATION IN HUNGARY, WHERE LOT OF SLOVENES "GRADUALLY IMPROVING," WITH THAT IN ITALY, WHERE SLOVENES "DO NOT ENJOY BASIC NATIONAL RIGHTS," AND IN AUSTRIA, WHERE SLOVENES "LIVE IN ATMOSPHERE OF NATIONAL INTOLERANCE."

4. LCS CONGRESS ATTENDED BY OBSERVERS REPRESENTING SLOVENIAN CULTURAL-ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION OF TRIESTE, ASSOCIATION OF SLOVENIAN ORGANIZATIONS OF CARINTHIA (AUSTRIA) AND PROVINCIAL COMMUNIST PARTY ORGANIZATIONS OF CARINTHIA AND ITALIAN REGIONS OF FRIULI, VENEZIA GIULIA, AND VENETO.

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